

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A method of controlling at an intermediate television transmission station the communication of television programming from a [plurality of] programming [sources] source to a subscriber, [said programming sources comprising at least one of a local programming source and a remote programming source,] said station having a computer for controlling the [storage and] communication of television programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a unit of television programming from a remote television programming source;

inputting to the computer a programming schedule designating for [each of a plurality of scheduled units] said unit of television programming at least one of:

(a) an output channel to be used in communicating said unit of television programming; and

(b) [the] a time said unit of television programming is to be communicated; storing [selected scheduled units] said unit of said television programming received by said station from the remote programming source; and

communicating [each scheduled] said unit of television programming from said transmission station to at least one subscriber according to said programming schedule.

2. (Amended) The method of claim [1] 58 wherein said step of storing comprises [comprising] the steps of:

[selecting a specific unit of programming;]

selecting a specific storage location;

inputting said [selected] unit of programming to said selected storage location;

and

storing said [selected] inputted unit of programming at said selected location.

3.(Amended) The method of claim [1] 58 wherein said station comprises a plurality of storage devices, said step of storing at least one of said units of programming comprises [comprising] the steps of:

selecting a specific storage device;

5 inputting said unit of [television] programming to said selected storage device; and
6 storing said inputted unit of [television] programming in said selected storage
7 device.

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2D1 5.(Amended) A method of controlling at an intermediate television transmission
station the communication of television programming from a programming source to a
3 subscriber, [said programming source comprising at least one of a local programming
4 source and a remote programming source,] said station having a computer for controlling
5 the storage and communication of television programming, said method comprising the
6 steps of:

7 receiving units of television programming from [said] a remote television
8 programming source;

9 receiving signals from said remote television programming source, each of said
10 signals identifying one of said received units of programming or the source of one of said
11 units of programming;

12 [selectively] inputting said signals [information received from said remote
13 television programming source] to the computer;

4B 14 storing [selected] at least one of said units of [said] television programming
15 received by said station from said remote programming source;

16 receiving at the computer a programming schedule, said programming schedule
17 designating for at least one of said units of programming at least one of:

18 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
19 programming to a subscriber;and

20 (b) a time the unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
21 subscriber;and

22 communicating at least one unit of said received units or said stored units of
23 television programming from said transmission station to at least one subscriber
24 according to [a] the programming schedule. [schedule; and

25 said programming schedule designating for each of a plurality of scheduled units
26 of television programming at least one of:

27 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating said scheduled unit of
28 television programming; and

29 (b) a time said scheduled unit of television programming is to be
30 communicated.]

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2 7.(Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said station comprises a plurality of
3 receivers for receiving the units of television programming and the signals [control
4 instructions] from said programming sources, said step of [selectively] inputting
5 comprising the steps of:

6 selecting a specific one of said receivers; and
7 inputting said [control instructions] signals received by said selected receiver to
said computer.

1 8.(Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said [scheduled] units of
2 programming communicated from said transmission station to said at least one
3 subscriber are selected from:

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4 (a) the units of programming [being] received at said transmission station from [a]
5 the remote programming source; and

6 (b) the units of television programming stored at a local programming source, said
7 local programming source comprising a television programming storage device located at
8 said station for storing units of programming.

1 9. (Amended) The method of claim 5 and further comprising the step of logging
2 said step of communicating [the communication of a plurality of the units of
3 programming from said transmission station, said programming being communicated to
4 one or more subscribers].

1 10.(Amended) A method of controlling at an intermediate transmission station the
2 communication of television programming from a television programming source to a
3 subscriber, [said television programming source being one of a local programming source

4 and a remote programming source,] said transmission station comprising a computer for
5 controlling the communication of programming, said method comprising the steps of:

6 receiving television programming units from a remote television programming
7 source;

8 loading a plurality of prerecorded units of television programming onto a local
9 programming source located at said transmission station;

10 receiving a plurality of [control] signals from a remote programming source, each
11 said [control] signal designating [a unit] one unit of said loaded units or said received
12 units of television programming to be communicated to a subscriber;

13 identifying in response to each said control signal the unit of programming
14 designated by said [control] signal from:

15 (a) the units of programming [being] received at said transmission station
16 from [a] the remote programming source; and

17 (b) the units of programming [stored at a] loaded onto the local
18 programming source, said local programming source comprising a programming storage
19 device located at said television transmission station;

20 communicating each said identified unit of television programming to the
21 subscriber [based upon a predetermined condition].

1 11.(Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising a step of receiving a
2 programming schedule, said programming schedule designating at least one of a time and
3 an output channel for communicating each said identified programming unit to a
4 subscriber, wherein said step of communicating comprises the step of communicating
5 each said identified unit of programming to the subscriber according to [a] the
6 programming schedule [, said programming schedule designating at least one of a time
7 and a channel for communicating each said identified unit to the subscriber].

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1 13. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said step of communicating
2 comprises the step of communicating each identified unit of programming to the
3 subscriber according to one of said plurality of [control] signals, said one [control] signal

4 further designating at least one of a time and a channel for communicating said
5 identified unit to the subscriber.

1 ^{sub} 16.(Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of storing
2 ^{D4} [selected] one of said units of [said] television programming received by said station in
3 [one of a plurality of storage devices] the storage device.

1 17.(Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein said step of identifying comprises
2 the steps of:
3 comparing one of said [control] signals to data in said programming schedule, said
4 data identifying the unit [units] of television programming;
5 determining based on said programming schedule whether the unit designated by
6 said one control signal [is to] will be received from the remote programming source and
7 should be communicated immediately upon receipt to a subscriber, or whether the
8 designated unit is [stored in the programming storage device] loaded onto the local
9 programming source and should be output therefrom to a subscriber, each of said units
10 of programming loaded onto the local programming source being stored at a storage
11 location on the local programming source; and
12 identifying the storage location of the unit of television programming designated
13 by said one control signal if the unit designated by said one control signal is [stored in
14 the storage device] loaded onto the local programming source.

1 18. (Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein there are a plurality of different
2 types of said [control] signals, and only some of said [control] signals designate said units
3 of programming.

1 19.(Amended) The method of claim 10 and further comprising the step of logging
2 [the transmission of units of programming from said transmission station to subscribers]
3 said step of communicating .

1 sub 20.(Amended) An apparatus located at an intermediate television transmission
-2 station for controlling the communication of units of television programming [from a
3 plurality of programming sources to selected subscribers, said programming sources
4 comprising local programming sources and remote programming sources, at least one of
5 said local programming sources comprising a television programming storage device,] to
6 a plurality of subscribers, said apparatus comprising:

7 a receiver for receiving units of television programming and signals from a remote
8 programming source, each of said received signals identifying one unit of the received
9 units of programming or identifying the programming source of the received unit;

10 [a matrix switch having a plurality of input channels receiving television
11 programming from a plurality of remote television programming sources, and a plurality
12 of output channels;]

13 a television programming storage device [electrically connected to said matrix
14 switch] for storing television programming units [for later communication,] and for
15 outputting or playing television programming units stored thereon, said storage device
16 storing signals identifying the units of programming stored thereon;

17 a switch having respective inputs electrically connected to said receiver and said
18 storage device, said switch having one or more outputs electrically connected to one or
19 more output channels;

20 a computer electrically connected to said receiver, said switch and said storage
21 device, said computer receiving or having access to a programming schedule, [said
22 computer receiving as a first input] the programming schedule designating for at least
23 one unit of said received units or said stored units of programming at least one of:

24 (a) a time to communicate [each scheduled] the unit of programming to a
25 subscriber; and

26 (b) an output channel to be used for communicating [each scheduled] the
27 unit of programming to a subscriber;

28 [said computer receiving as a second input a plurality of control instructions from
29 said remote programming sources, said control instructions being inputted to said
30 computer with information that designates for at least some units of programming at
31 least one of:

32 (a) the input channels on which said programming units will be received by
33 said switch for those units received from the remote programming sources; and

34 (b) the specific remote programming sources for the units of programming
35 received from the remote sources of programming;] and

36 said computer selecting each said unit of programming designated by said
37 programming schedule from units received by said receiver and units stored in said
38 storage device based upon said received signals and said stored signals, and said
39 computer configuring said switch and controlling said storage device to communicate said
40 selected units of television programming [previously stored in said storage device and
41 selected units of television programming being received at the input channels of said
42 switch] to a subscriber [via the appropriate output channels and at the appropriate times]
43 according to said programming schedule [and said control instructions].

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1 22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said storage device comprises a plurality
2 of television programming storage devices connected to said switch, said computer
3 further configuring said switch to select a specific storage device.

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1 23. The apparatus of claim 20, said received signals further include information
2 designating one of said received units of programming for storage or delayed
3 communication to a subscriber, wherein said computer further operates to control said
4 switch and said programming storage device to store [selected] said units of programming
5 received at said switch that are designated by said [programming schedule] received
6 signals for storage or delayed communication to a subscriber.

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1 31. (Amended) A method of controlling at an intermediate television transmission
2 station the communication of television programming [from at least one programming
3 source] to a subscriber, [said at least one programming source comprising at least one of
4 a local programming source and a remote programming source,] said station having a
5 computer for controlling the communication of television programming, said method
6 comprising the steps of:

7 receiving at least one unit of television programming [a plurality of programming
-8 transmissions] from a [plurality of] remote programming source [sources, each
9 programming transmission comprising television programming and control instructions];
10 receiving a signal;
11 storing a plurality of units of programming on a local programming source;
12 [inputting] receiving a programming schedule designating for [each of a plurality
13 of scheduled programming] at least one unit of said received units or said stored units at
14 least one of:
15 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the [scheduled] unit of
16 programming;
17 (b) an approximate time the unit of [scheduled] programming is to be
18 communicated to a subscriber;
19 detecting said signal [control instructions in said programming transmissions from
20 said programming sources and inputting said control instructions to said computer];
21 passing said detected signal to the computer;
22 identifying that [one of] said [control instructions] detected signal is [of] a
23 predetermined signal [type]; and
24 communicating [a selected unit] one unit of said at least one received unit or said
25 stored units of television programming from said transmission station to at least one
26 subscriber in response to said step of identifying [said one control instruction] and
27 according to said programming schedule.

1 32.(Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said [control instructions
2 comprise] signal is one of a plurality of different [types of control instructions] signals,
3 said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-delay signal
4 [instruction], and said method further comprises the [step] steps of selecting one of said
5 received units and storing [a specific] said selected unit of programming in response to
6 said step of identifying the instruct-to-delay [instruction] signal, thereby allowing a
7 delayed communication of the [specific] selected unit of programming.

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33.(Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein the selected unit [stored in response to said instruct-to-delay instruction] is identified by said instruct-to-delay [instruction] signal.

34.(Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein said selected unit [stored in response to said instruct-to-delay instruction] is identified by being transmitted with said instruct-to-delay signal from the at least one remote programming source [instruction].

35.(Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said [control instructions comprise] signal is one of a plurality of [different predetermined control instructions] signals, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-communicate signal [instruction], said step of communicating being performed in response to said step of identifying said instruct-to-communicate signal, [and] said step of communicating [comprises] comprises the steps of:

selecting a unit of programming from one of:

(a) the units of programming stored on the local programming source [stored in a storage device at said transmission station]; and

(b) the at least one unit [units] of programming [being] received at said transmission station from [a] the remote programming source; and

communicating said selected unit to a subscriber at a time and on an output channel according to said schedule.

36.(Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said [control instructions comprise] signal is one of a plurality of different [predetermined control instructions] signals, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-determine-input signal [instruction], and said step of communicating comprises the steps of:

selecting a unit of programming from one of:

(a) the units of programming stored [in a storage device at said transmission station] on the local programming source, said [storage device] local programming source being electrically connected to [an] a first input of a switch; and

9 (b) the at least one unit [units] of programming [being] received at said
10 transmission station from [a] the remote programming source, said received units being
11 electrically connected to [an] a second input [channel to] of the switch, the switch
12 electrically connecting one of the switch inputs to a switch output;
13 identifying in response to said instruct-to-determine-input [instruction an] signal
14 one of the switch inputs [input channel] from which to communicate said selected unit of
15 programming to a subscriber; [and]
16 configuring the switch to transfer the selected unit from the identified switch input
17 to the switch output;
18 communicating said selected unit from the switch output [identified input channel]
19 to a subscriber according to said programming schedule.

1 37.(Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said [control instructions
2 comprise] signal is one of a plurality of different [predetermined control instructions]
3 signals, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-determine-
4 output signal [instruction], and said step of communicating comprises the steps of:
5 selecting a unit of programming from one of:

6 (a) the units of programming stored [in a storage device at said
7 transmission station] on the local programming source; and

8 (b) the at least one unit of programming [being] received at said
9 transmission station from [a] the remote programming source;
10 identifying in response to said instruct-to-determine-output [instruction] signal an
11 output channel over which to communicate said selected unit of programming to a
12 subscriber; and
13 communicating said selected unit to a subscriber over the identified output
14 channel.

1 38.(Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said [control instructions
2 comprise] signal is one of a plurality of different [predetermined control instructions,]
3 signals, the transmission station comprising a switch electrically connecting one of a
4 plurality of switch inputs to one of a plurality of switch outputs, each of said switch

5 outputs electrically connected to one of a plurality of the output channels, the stored
6 units and received units electrically connected to first and second said switch inputs
7 respectively, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-
8 transfer [instruction] signal, and said step of communicating comprises the steps of:
9 selecting a unit of programming from the stored units or the at least one received
10 unit;
11 identifying [an] one of the switch inputs [input channel] from which to
12 communicate [a] the selected unit of programming;
13 identifying [an] one of the switch outputs to which to transfer [output channel
14 over which to communicate] said selected unit of programming, said switch output being
15 identified through the designation of the output channel by the programming schedule;
16 communicating a switch control signal [instruction] to [a] the switch in response to
17 [said instruct-to-transfer instruction] said steps of identifying the switch input and the
18 switch output;
19 configuring said switch in response to said switch control signal [instruction] to
20 transfer said selected unit of programming from said identified switch input [channel] to
21 said identified switch output [channel];
22 communicating the transferred unit of programming according to said
23 programming schedule over a cable television distribution system.

1 39.(Amended) The method of either of claims 32, 35, [36] or 37 wherein said step
2 of communicating further comprises the steps of:
3 communicating a switch control signal [instruction] to a switch;
4 configuring said switch in response to said switch control signal [instruction] to
5 [communicate] transfer one unit of said received units or said stored units of television
6 programming from a selected input of said switch to a selected output of said switch.

1 40.(Amended) A method of controlling at an intermediate television transmission
2 station the communication of units of television programming [from a television
3 programming source] to a subscriber, said station having a computer for controlling the
4 communication of programming, [said programming source comprising at least one of a

5 remote programming source and a local programming source,] said method comprising
6 the steps of:

7 receiving units of television programming from [a plurality of] at least one remote
8 television programming [sources] source;

9 receiving a [plurality of] control signal [signals] from said at least one [of said]
10 remote programming [sources] source and inputting [each of] said control signal [signals
11 to a computer] together with information designating at least one of:

12 (a) [a unit] one of said units of programming;

13 (b) a [specific] programming source; and

14 (c) a [specific] transmission channel;

15 selecting one of said units in response to receiving said control signal and
16 receiving said inputted information;

17 identifying an output channel in response to receiving [each of] said control signal
18 and said inputted information [signals];

19 [communicating a selected unit of television programming from said transmission
20 station to at least one subscriber according to a programming schedule and responsive to
21 identifying an output channel for each said unit; and]

22 receiving a [said] programming schedule designating for each of a plurality of said
23 units of television programming at least one of:

24 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
25 programming; and

26 (b) a time said unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
27 subscriber;and

28 communicating the selected unit of television programming from said transmission
29 station to at least one subscriber according to the programming schedule.

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1 42.(Amended) The method of claim 40 wherein said station has a plurality of
2 output channels for communicating television programming to a subscriber, said step of
3 communicating further comprising the steps of:

4 communicating switch control signals [instructions] to a switch;

5 configuring said switch to [selectively] communicate said selected unit [units] of
6 television programming to [identified ones] the identified [of said plurality of] output
7 channel [channels].

B11 1 44 (Amended). The method of claim [42] 40 and further comprising the step of
2 logging [each] said step of communicating [identified output channel].

4 49. (Amended) The method of claim [4,] 8, [15,] 17, [26, 29,] 38, or 42 [or 48]
2 D 1 8 further comprising the step of identifying a specific unit of television programming on the
3 basis of [program] a unit identification signal [information] embedded in said unit of
4 television programming.

1 50. (Amended) The method of claim [4,] 8, [15,] 17, [26, 29,] 31, 38 or 42 further
2 comprising the step of logging for each unit of television programming communicated to
3 a subscriber a unit identification signal identifying the unit and at least [two] one of:

4 [(a) program unit identification information for identifying the communicated
5 unit;]

B 6 (a) [(b)] a specific time when the unit is communicated to a subscriber; and

7 (b) (c) a specific output channel over which the unit of programming is
8 communicated to a subscriber.

1 51. (Amended) The method of claim [4, 38, or 48] 5, 11, 31 or 40 wherein said step
2 of [inputting] receiving a programming schedule comprises the [step] steps of receiving
3 the programming schedule from a remote [programming] information source and storing
4 the programming schedule.

1 52. (Amended) The method of claim 8, 17, [29] or 42 further comprising the step
2 of receiving said programming schedule from a remote information [programming]
3 source.

Please cancel claims 4, 6, 12, 14, 15, 21, 24-30, 41, 43 and 45-48 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 53 - 84 as follows:

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2 D 1 0
3 --53. The method of claim 31, wherein said step of storing comprises the steps of:
4 loading a plurality of prerecorded units of programming onto the local
5 programming source; and
6 storing a plurality of said received units of programming on the local
7 programming source.

1 54. The method of claim 31, wherein said signal is one of a plurality of different
2 signals, said step of identifying comprises the step of identifying an instruct-to-overlay
3 signal, said step of communicating being performed in response to identifying the
4 instruct-to-overlay signal, said step of communicating comprises the steps of:
5 selecting a remote unit of programming from the at least one unit of
6 programming received at said transmission station from the remote programming source;
7 selecting a local unit of programming from the units of programming stored on
8 the local programming source at the transmission station;
9 communicating to a subscriber said selected remote unit of programming and said
10 selected local unit of programming to allow the combined presentation at the subscriber
11 of the selected remote unit and the selected local unit.

1 55. The method of claim 31 wherein said step of receiving comprises the step of
2 receiving a programming transmission via satellite from a television network, said
3 programming transmission comprising at least one unit of television programming and
4 one or more digital signals embedded in the programming transmission.

1 56. A method of controlling at a television transmission station the
2 communication of programming from at least one programming source to a subscriber,
3 the station including a computer for controlling the communication of programming, said
4 method comprising the steps of:
5 receiving at least one unit of television programming at the programming
6 transmission station from a remote television programming source;

7 loading or inputting at least one prerecorded unit of television programming onto
8 a local programming source;

9 receiving at the computer a programming schedule that designates, for at least
10 one unit of said prerecorded programming or said received programming, at least one of:

11 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
12 programming; and

13 (b) a time the unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
14 subscriber;

15 selecting, based on said programming schedule, one of said units of programming
16 for communication from:

17 (a) said at least one unit of television programming received by said station
18 from the remote programming source; and

19 (b) said at least one prerecorded unit of television programming loaded
20 onto the local programming source;

21 communicating said selected unit of television programming from said
22 transmission station to at least one subscriber according to said programming
23 schedule;and

24 logging said step of communicating the selected programming unit.

1 57. The method of claim 56 wherein said step of receiving comprises the steps of
2 receiving a programming schedule from a remote information source and storing the
3 programming schedule in the computer, the programming schedule designating for at
4 least one unit of said programming received from the remote programming source or at
5 least one unit of said prerecorded programming loaded on the local programming
6 source:

7 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
8 programming; and

9 (b) the time the unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
10 subscriber.

58. The method of claim 56 wherein said step of loading or inputting comprises the step of loading a tape onto a video tape player/recorder, said tape player/recorder located at the transmission station, said tape having units of television programming prerecorded thereon.

59. The method of claim 56 wherein said step of receiving comprises the step of receiving a plurality of units of television programming via satellite from a television network.

60. The method of claim 56, further comprising the step of storing at least one of said units of programming received from said remote programming source on a video tape player/recorder at said station for delayed communication to a subscriber.

61. The method of claim 56, wherein said step of communicating further comprises communicating a unit identification signal with the selected unit, said unit identification signal identifying the selected unit of programming, wherein said step of logging comprises the steps of:

detecting the identification signal during said step of communicating; and
creating a record evidencing said step of communicating the selected programming unit to the subscriber based on said step of detecting.

62. A method of controlling at a television transmission station the communication of television programming from a plurality of programming sources to a subscriber, said station having a computer for controlling the communication of programming, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of units of television programming from a remote television programming source;

storing at least one of said units of programming received from said remote programming source at said transmission station;

receiving a programming schedule that designates for at least one unit of said received units or said stored units at least one of:

11 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
12 programming; and

13 (b) a time the unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
14 subscriber;

15 selecting one of said units of programming for communication from:

16 (a) said units of television programming being received by said station from
17 the remote programming source but which are not stored at said transmission station;
18 and

19 (b) said at least one of said units of television programming that were
20 received from the remote programming source and stored at said transmission station;

21 communicating said selected unit of television programming from said
22 transmission station to at least one subscriber according to said programming
23 schedule;and

24 logging said step of communicating.

1 63. A method of controlling at a television transmission station the
2 communication of television programming from a plurality of programming sources to a
3 subscriber, said station having a computer for controlling the communication of
4 programming, said station having a switch for electrically connecting one of a plurality of
5 switch inputs to a switch output, said method comprising the steps of:

6 receiving at a receiver located at the station a unit of television programming
7 from a remote television programming source, the receiver connected to a first input of
8 the switch;

9 storing a plurality of units of programming on a local programming source, the
10 local programming source connected to a second input of the switch;

11 receiving at the computer a programming schedule that designates for at least one
12 unit of said received unit or said stored units at least one of:

13 (a) a time the unit is to be communicated to a subscriber; and

14 (b) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit to the
15 subscriber;

16 selecting, based on said programming schedule, one unit of said received unit or
17 said stored units;
18 identifying the switch input connected to the selected unit;
19 communicating a switch control signal from the computer to the switch;
20 configuring the switch in response to the switch control signal to transfer the
21 selected unit of programming from the identified switch input to the switch output;
22 communicating the selected unit from the switch output to a subscriber over an
23 output channel according to the programming schedule; and
24 logging said step of communicating.

1 64. The method of claim 63 wherein said step of storing comprises the steps of:
2 storing said received unit on the local programming source; and
3 loading a plurality of prerecorded units of programming onto the local
4 programming source.

1 65. A method of controlling at a television transmission station the
2 communication of units of television programming to a subscriber, the station having a
3 computer for controlling the communication of units of programming, said station
4 comprising a switch that selectably connects one of a plurality of switch inputs to a
5 switch output, said method comprising the steps of:
6 storing a plurality of units of programming onto one of a plurality of programming
7 sources, each said programming source electrically connected to one of said switch
8 inputs;
9 receiving a plurality of signals from a remote programming source;
10 receiving at the computer a programming schedule that designates for at least one
11 of said units of programming at least one of:
12 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
13 programming; and
14 (b) a time the unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
15 subscriber;
16 passing said received signals to the computer;

17 - selecting one of said units in response to receiving one of said signals;
18 identifying the switch input connected to the programming source storing the
19 selected unit;
20 configuring the switch to transfer the selected unit from the identified switch input
21 to the switch output;
22 communicating the selected unit from the switch output to the subscriber
23 according to the programming schedule; and
24 logging the step of communicating.

1 66. The method of claim 65 wherein said step of storing comprises the step of
2 loading a plurality of prerecorded units of television programming onto the programming
3 sources.

1 67. The method of claim 65 wherein said step of storing comprises the steps
2 of:
3 receiving a plurality of units of programming from a television network; and
4 storing said received units of programming on the programming sources.

1 68. A method of controlling the communication of units of television
2 programming to a subscriber comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a plurality of units of television programming from a remote
4 programming source;
5 storing a plurality of units of programming on a local programming source;
6 receiving a plurality of signals from said remote programming source;
7 receiving at a computer a programming schedule that designates for one or more
8 units of said stored units or said received units at least one of:

9 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
10 programming; and

11 (b) a time the unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
12 subscriber;

13 selecting one unit of said stored units or said received units based upon at least
14 one of said received signals; and
15 communicating said selected unit of programming to the subscriber at the time or
16 on the channel designated by said programming schedule.

Sub 69 69. The method of claim 68 further comprising a step of logging the step of communicating said selected unit to the subscriber.

Sub 70 70. The method of claim 68 wherein said step of storing comprises the steps of:
2 loading a plurality of prerecorded units of television programming onto the local
3 programming source; and
4 storing said received units of programming on the local programming source.

1 71. The method of claim 68 wherein said step of receiving a plurality of signals
2 comprises the step of receiving a plurality of signals from the remote programming
3 source, each said signal identifying either one unit of said stored units or said received
4 units or a source of one unit of said stored units or said received units.

1 72. A method of controlling at a transmission station the communication of units
2 of television programming to a subscriber, the transmission station having a computer for
3 controlling the communication of programming, said method comprising the steps of:
4 receiving a plurality of units of programming from a remote programming source;
5 receiving a plurality of signals from a remote programming source;
6 selecting one of said units in response to receiving one of said signals;
7 determining, based on said one signal, whether said selected unit should be
8 retransmitted to a subscriber immediately or whether said selected unit should be stored
9 on a local programming source for delayed communication to a subscriber;
10 storing said selected unit on the local programming source if, based upon said
11 step of determining, said selected unit should be stored for delayed communication;
12 receiving a programming schedule that designates for some of said units of
13 programming at least one of:

14 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
15 programming; and

16 (b) a time the unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
17 subscriber;

18 communicating, at the time or on the output channel designated by said
19 programming schedule, said selected unit from the local programming source to the
20 subscriber if the selected unit is stored on the local programming source for delayed
21 communication;

22 logging the step of communicating said outputted unit to the subscriber.

1 73. The method of claim 72 further comprising the step of communicating said
2 selected unit to the subscriber if, based on said step of determining, the selected unit
3 should be retransmitted immediately.

1 74. The method of claim 72 wherein said step of communicating comprises the
2 steps of:
3

4 outputting, at a time or on a channel designated by said schedule, said selected
5 unit from the local programming source if the selected unit is stored on the local
6 programming source; and

7 transmitting the outputted unit to the subscriber via a cable distribution system.

1 75. A method of controlling at a television programming transmission station the
2 communication of units of programming to a subscriber, the station having a computer
3 for controlling the communication of programming, said method comprising the steps of:
4 storing a unit of programming and a unit identification signal on a local
5 programming source, said unit identification signal identifying said unit of programming;
6 receiving at the computer a programming schedule that designates for said unit of
7 programming at least one of:

8 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of television
9 programming; and

10 (b) a time the unit of television programming is to be communicated to a
11 subscriber;
12 outputting said unit of programming and said unit identification signal from the
13 local programming source at the time or onto the output channel designated by said
14 programming schedule;
15 communicating at least said outputted unit to the subscriber;
16 detecting the unit identification signal outputted from the local programming
17 source; and
18 logging said step of communicating based upon said step of detecting.

1 76. The method of claim 75 wherein said step of logging comprises the step of
2 creating a record evidencing said step of communicating said unit.

1 77. The method of claim 75 wherein said step of communicating comprises the
2 step of communicating said outputted unit and said outputted unit identification signal to
3 the subscriber.

1 78. A method of controlling at a television transmission station the
2 communication of television programming from at least one programming source to a
3 subscriber, the station having a computer for controlling the communication of
4 programming, the station comprising a switch for connecting one of a plurality of switch
5 inputs to a switch output, said method comprising the steps of:
6 receiving a unit of programming from a remote programming source;
7 receiving at a receiver a signal from the remote programming source, the receiver
8 electrically connected to a first input of the switch;
9 storing a plurality of units of programming onto a local programming source
10 located at said transmission station, said local source electrically connected to a second
11 switch input of the switch;
12 scheduling for communication one of said stored units;
13 selecting, based on the received signal, at least one unit of said received unit or
14 said scheduled unit stored in the local programming source;

15 identifying the switch input connected to the selected unit;
16 communicating a switch control signal from the computer to the switch;
17 configuring the switch in response to said switch control signal to transfer the
18 selected unit from the identified switch input to the switch output;
19 communicating said selected unit of television programming from said switch
20 output to the subscriber.

1 79. A method of controlling the communication of television programming to a
2 subscriber, said method comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a unit of programming from a remote programming source;
4 receiving at a receiver a signal from the remote programming source, said receiver
5 electrically connected to a first input to a switch;

6 storing a unit of programming on a local programming source, said local
7 programming source electrically connected to a second input of the switch, the switch
8 electrically connecting one of the switch inputs to at least one switch output;

9 receiving a programming schedule designating for at least one unit of said
10 received unit or said stored unit at least one of:

11 (a) an output channel to be used in communicating the unit of
12 programming;

13 (b) a time the unit of scheduled programming is to be communicated to a
14 subscriber;

15 detecting said received signal;
16 identifying that said detected signal is a predetermined signal; and
17 selecting one unit of said received unit or said stored unit of television
18 programming in response to said step of identifying;
19 identifying the switch input connected to the selected unit;
20 configuring the switch to transfer the selected unit from the identified switch input
21 to the at least one switch output;
22 communicating the selected unit from the at least one switch output to a
23 subscriber, said selected unit being communicated with a unit identification signal and

24 according to said programming schedule, said unit identification signal identifying the
25 selected unit;and

26 logging said step of communicating, said step of logging comprises the steps of:

27 (a) detecting the unit identification signal during said step of
28 communicating;and

29 (b) creating a record evidencing said step of communicating based on
30 said step of detecting the unit identification signal.

1 80. The method of claim 78 or 79 wherein said step of storing comprises the steps
2 of:

3 storing said received unit on the local programming source; and

4 loading a plurality of prerecorded units of programming onto the local
5 programming source.

1 81. The method of claim 62, 63, 65, 68, 72, 75, 78 or 79 wherein said step of
2 receiving a programming schedule comprises the steps of:

3 receiving the programming schedule from a remote information source; and
4 storing the received programming schedule.

1 Sub 82. The method of claim 1, 5, 10, 31, 40, 56, 62, 63, 65, 68, 72, 75, 78, or 79
2 D13 wherein said step of receiving programming from a remote programming source
3 comprises the step of receiving at least one of:

4 (a) television programming, including at least one of television video and
5 television audio;and

6 (b) data.

1 Sub 83. An apparatus for controlling the communication of units of television
2 D13 programming to a plurality of subscribers, said apparatus comprising:

3 a receiver for receiving units of television programming and signals from a remote
4 programming source;

5 - a television programming storage device for storing television programming units
6 and for outputting or playing television programming units stored thereon, said storage
7 device storing signals identifying the units of programming stored thereon;

8 a switch having respective inputs electrically connected to said receiver and said
9 storage device, said switch having one or more outputs electrically connected to one or
10 more output channels;

11 a computer electrically connected to said receiver, said switch and said storage
12 device, said computer receiving or having access to a programming schedule, the
13 programming schedule designating for at least one unit of said received units or said
14 stored units of programming at least one of:

15 (a) a time to communicate the unit of programming to a subscriber; and

16 (b) an output channel to be used for communicating the unit of
17 programming to a subscriber; and

18 said computer programmed to perform the following steps:

19 (a) selecting each said unit of programming designated by said
20 programming schedule from units received by said receiver and units stored in said
21 storage device;

22 (b) configuring said switch and controlling said storage device to
23 communicate said selected units of television programming to a subscriber according to
24 said programming schedule.

1 84. An apparatus for controlling the communication of units of television
2 programming to a plurality of subscribers, said apparatus comprising:

3 a plurality of storage devices, each said storage device storing at least one unit of
4 television programming and selectively outputting or playing television programming
5 units stored thereon, said storage device storing unit identification signals identifying the
6 units of programming stored thereon;

7 a switch having respective inputs connected to said storage devices, said switch
8 having one or more outputs electrically connected to one or more output channels;

9 a computer electrically connected to said switch and said storage devices, said
10 computer receiving or having access to a programming schedule, the programming